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Washington, D. C. 20520

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

TO: M - Mr. Selin

FROM: EAP - Richard H. Solomon

SUBJECT: Funding for Visit of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, November 30 to December 1

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to authorize official funds for the visit of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his delegation to Washington November 30 to December 1.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Foreign Minister Qian will visit Washington at the invitation of the Secretary after participating in the U.N. Security Council debate on Iraq. The Secretary extended this invitation to continue discussions on the Persian Gulf crisis and China's role in resolving it as well as other international and bilateral issues.

This meeting will be an important step in our step-by-step program to encourage developments in China which will enable us to resume a stable and productive bilateral relationship.

We believe it is important to preserve the pattern of reciprocal hosting which evolved in our high-level exchanges with PRC leaders prior to June 1989. In 1988, both nations funded the exchange of ministerial visits - by Foreign Minister Wu Xuguan to the U.S. in March and by Secretary Shultz to China in July - on a reciprocal basis. In 1989 the Chinese paid all expenses for the President's visit to Beijing, including hotels and lodging, and we funded the special visit of National People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman Wan Li in May.

Based on these precedents, we propose the Department cover for Qian and his party:

- the air travel from New York, where the Minister will be attending the Security Council, to Washington;
- lodging in Washington; and
- ground transportation in New York and Washington.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize the expenditure of Department funds to cover hotel, food, ground transportation and air transport from New York to Washington for Foreign Minister Qian and the ten members of his delegation during their November 30 to December 1 visit.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

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EAP/CM:KWiedemann
EAP/EX:JMJenkins
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